

Health Lab Title: Research Director

Who We Are:

Persistent disparities in health outcomes across segments of the United States population and the soaring cost of health care have created an urgent need to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the nation's health care system. Our health care system remains compartmentalized and often fails vulnerable patients—particularly those with multiple chronic health problems—in addition to straining government resources. Health care reform has created exciting new opportunities in health care access and health care delivery, but policymakers and practitioners are still working to understand how it can sustainably and reliably improve health outcomes for underserved populations including the homeless, the elderly, and those in the criminal justice system.

The University of Chicago's Health Lab finds and tests promising programs and interventions in health by leveraging rigorous research methods such as randomized controlled trials, large datasets, and partnerships with government agencies and nonprofits. As a part of the Urban Labs, we focus on the social determinants of health to conduct applied research projects in health and at the intersections of health, homelessness and criminal justice. We also actively support the work of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHeSS) at the University of Chicago, focusing on reducing healthcare costs and improving outcomes.

The Health Lab places a deep emphasis on partnership with city and state agencies. To date, we have active projects with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Cook County Health and Hospital System, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, the Chicago Fire Department, the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Chicago's Continuum of Care (All Chicago). Our goal is to rigorously answer questions that these agencies have about public health programs and policies in order to improve human life at scale. For examples of our work, please see: <http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/>

The Role:

The University of Chicago Health Lab is seeking a full-time Research Director to contribute to the scientific and intellectual leadership for the Health Lab. The Research Director will partner with Health Lab faculty directors and affiliated faculty within and outside the University of Chicago to provide scientific direction for a portfolio of applied research projects and to ensure the rigor and quality of the Lab's work.

Responsibilities:

- Work with Health Lab faculty to direct a portfolio of applied research projects focused on urban health, including at the interactions of health and criminal justice involvement, and health and homelessness, as well as incorporating tools from predictive analytics and machine learning across the areas in which the Health Lab is doing work
- Manage and mentor research and project staff, providing scientific direction and ensuring the rigor and quality of all work
- Contribute to strategic conversations about which new projects and initiatives should be taken

on by the Health Lab

- Work collaboratively with practitioners and policy makers to develop and implement applied research projects
- Contribute to, and be able to lead, development of scientific content and research proposals
- Disseminate research findings to both research and practitioner/policy maker audiences
- Serve as a member of the Health Lab's senior leadership team, with primary reporting to the Health Lab Faculty Director and reporting to the Faculty Co-Director and Executive Director

Competencies:

- Expertise in all aspects of the research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of health policy *or* expertise in machine learning/predictive analytics required. Expertise in both preferred
- Interest in finding and testing innovative solutions to urban problems
- Content expertise in workforce development, healthcare delivery, or financial stability preferred

Education:

- Ph.D. in public policy, economics, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field by fall 2019 required

Experience:

- Experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders preferred

Required Documents:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Writing Sample
- Reference Contact Information
- **Note:** When applying, all required documents **MUST** be uploaded under the **Resume/CV** section of the application

To Apply: please submit a resume, cover letter, writing sample, and reference contact information to <https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External>, requisition JR06923.